

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 11

Introduced by Assembly Member Jackson

February 27, 2003

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 11—Relative to Sierra Nevada Conservation Framework.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 11, as introduced, Jackson. Sierra Nevada Conservation Framework.

This measure would memorialize the President and the Congress of the United States to take necessary action to implement the Sierra Nevada Conservation Framework as originally adopted.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Sierra Nevada Conservation Framework was
2 adopted by the United States Forest Service on January 12, 2001;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The Sierra Framework Plan affects 11 million
5 acres of public land encompassed by the Modoc, Lassen, Plumas,
6 Tahoe, Lake Tahoe Basin, El Dorado, Toiyabe, Stanislaus, Sierra,
7 Inyo, and Sequoia National Forests; and

8 WHEREAS, The Sierra Nevada Conservation Framework Plan
9 was the product of more than a decade of planning and research in
10 the Sierra and the end result of more than a \$20 million investment
11 in planning and analysis; and

12 WHEREAS, The Sierra Framework struck a critical balance
13 between the goals of reducing the risk of wildland fire across the
14 landscape, particularly near homes and communities, and

1 protecting ecologically important resources, including old growth
2 forests; and

3 WHEREAS, 300 species of terrestrial vertebrate species use the
4 Sierra Nevada as a significant part of their range; and

5 WHEREAS, The most important cause of the decline of Sierra
6 vertebrates has been the loss of habitat, especially foothill,
7 riparian, and old growth forests; and

8 WHEREAS, The Sierra Framework was the first effort by the
9 Forest Service, anywhere in the nation, to develop and apply a fire
10 risk reduction strategy across an entire landscape; and

11 WHEREAS, The national forests of the Sierra Nevada are
12 closely linked to the quality of life in the region and are woven
13 deeply into the ecological health of the Sierra; and

14 WHEREAS, The Sierra forests are economically important in
15 supporting an outdoor recreation industry and in providing a host
16 of valuable ecosystem services, including providing clean
17 drinking water to municipalities; and

18 WHEREAS, The forests maintain property values, support a
19 diverse economic base in many counties, and help attract new
20 residents, new businesses, and new wealth to the Sierra; and

21 WHEREAS, The State of California, acting through the State
22 Resources Agency, participated fully in the development of the
23 Sierra Framework; and

24 WHEREAS, The plan was described as the “Forest Service’s
25 best effort to lay out a blueprint to manage the forests of the Sierra
26 Nevada,” by the current Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for
27 Natural Resources and Environment; and

28 WHEREAS, The Chief of the Forest Service found that the plan
29 was “reached after a comprehensive review of the relevant
30 environmental, economic, and social consequences,” and that the
31 plan “represents a middle of the road approach;” and

32 WHEREAS, The Forest Service is now proposing to set many
33 of the Framework’s forest protections aside and begin a new
34 planning process, further delaying efforts to reduce the risk of fire
35 to Sierra communities and jeopardizing important ecological
36 values of the forests; now, therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California,*
38 *jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California
39 memorializes the President of the United States and all Members
40 of the Congress of the United States to take necessary action to



1 implement the Sierra Nevada Conservation Framework; and be it
2 further
3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
4 of this resolution to the President of the United States and to all
5 members of the Congress of the United States.

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